PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders

The PhD program in communication sciences and disorders (CSD) has four tracks:

1. Bachelor’s to PhD clinical track in speech-language pathology (SLP)
2. Bachelor’s to PhD clinical track in audiology (Aud)
3. Bachelor’s to PhD nonclinical track
4. SLP Master’s/Doctor of Audiology (AuD) to PhD track

Admission
To be considered for admission, please submit the following, as well as the supporting documents listed below under minimum requirements for each track.

1. Application for admission to the WSU Graduate School, including official transcripts from all institutions attended.
2. Three letters of recommendation.
4. Professional resume.
5. Applicants whose native language is not English must submit official scores for either the TOEFL, the academic module of the IELTS examination, or the PTE-Academic examination, taken within the last two years. No waivers are allowed. Minimum acceptable scores to be considered for admission are: TOEFL - 100 internet-based with a score of 23 or higher on the speaking portion; IELTS - an overall band score of 7.5; PTE-Academic - a score of 73.

Additional Minimum Requirements for Application to the PhD Graduate Program Tracks

There are different minimum requirements for the different tracks in the PhD program. Please review these requirements before applying to a specific track. Admission to all of the tracks in the CSD PhD program is restricted to students whose abilities, experience and previous coursework indicate that they are likely to be able to complete the doctoral program successfully. It is expected that the applicant will have acquired sufficient knowledge in communication sciences and disorders to be prepared for entry into an integrated program of advanced study and research. Applications are reviewed on a continuing basis.

1. Bachelor’s to PhD Clinical Track in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) or Audiology
   a. Hold a bachelor’s degree with a major in CSD from a regionally accredited institution or a recognized institution in another country whose requirements for the bachelor’s degree are substantially equivalent to a U.S. bachelor’s degree. If the student’s major was not in CSD, prerequisite undergraduate coursework as required for entry into the SLP master’s degree program (for SLP) or as determined by program faculty (for audiology) must be completed prior to application to the PhD program.
   b. Minimum grade requirements: 3.500 overall GPA and 3.600 GPA in CSD major coursework.
   c. Official scores for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) taken within the last five years.
   d. Following review of application documents, highly rated applicants will be offered an interview. Please note that this is an exceptionally competitive, low-acceptance program and not all applicants will be offered an interview.
   e. Completion of interview with program faculty/clinical supervisors, which will include (but is not limited to) an assessment of academic potential, professional goals, motivation and commitment to the profession, and interpersonal and communication skills.

2. Bachelor’s to PhD Nonclinical Track
   a. Hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution or a recognized institution in another country whose requirements for the bachelor’s degree are substantially equivalent to a U.S. bachelor’s degree.
   b. Minimum grade requirements: 3.250 overall GPA and 3.500 GPA in the last 60 credit hours.
   c. Official scores for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or Miller Analogies Test (MAT) taken within the last five years.
   d. Following review of application documents, qualified applicants will be offered an interview. Not all applicants will be offered an interview.
   e. Completion of interview with program faculty/clinical supervisors, which will include (but is not limited to) an assessment of academic potential, professional goals, motivation and commitment to the profession, and interpersonal and communication skills.

3. SLP Master’s/Doctor of Audiology (AuD) to PhD Track
   a. Hold a master’s degree in SLP or Doctor of Audiology degree from a CAA accredited program.
   b. Minimum grade requirements: 3.250 overall GPA and 3.500 GPA in the awarded graduate degree program.
   c. Official scores for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or Miller Analogies Test (MAT) taken within the last five years.
   d. Following review of application documents, qualified applicants will be offered an interview. Not all applicants will be offered an interview.
   e. Completion of interview with program faculty/clinical supervisors, which will include (but is not limited to) an assessment of academic potential, professional goals, motivation and commitment to the profession, and interpersonal and communication skills.

1 Please note: This is an exceptionally competitive, low-acceptance program.

Program Requirements
Although some program requirements are common to all PhD tracks, each track also has specific program requirements that are detailed below.

Program Requirements for All PhD Tracks
All tracks require coursework and practica designed to build knowledge and skills as an effective researcher in CSD (21 credit hours). All tracks also include coursework and practica in university teaching (4 credit hours) and CSD foundational modules (5 credit hours), plus a minimum of 12 credit hours of dissertation research.

Bachelor’s to PhD Clinical Track in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP)
This track requires 73 credit hours in addition to the 42 credit hours for all PhD tracks, for a total of 115 credit hours beyond the bachelor’s degree. Students in this track complete all requirements (both academic and clinical) for the Master of Arts (MA) in speech-language pathology and may be awarded the MA along the way to the PhD degree. Award of the MA degree occurs once the student has completed all academic and clinical requirements for that degree, as described in the Graduate Catalog. Students in this track also typically complete their Clinical Fellowship (CF) following the awarding of the MA degree.
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(See American Speech-Language-Hearing Association for specific requirements for the CF). In addition, students complete 12 credit hours of elective coursework (minimum of 9 credit hours at the 900 level) designed to deepen their knowledge and skills in their specific area(s) of specialization.

**Bachelor’s to PhD Clinical Track in Audiology (Aud)**
This track requires 101 credit hours in addition to the 42 credit hours for all PhD tracks, for a total of 143 credit hours beyond the bachelor’s degree. Students in this track complete all requirements (both academic and clinical) for the Doctor of Audiology degree (excluding PHS 804), and may be awarded the AuD along the way to the PhD degree. Award of the AuD degree occurs once the student has completed all academic and clinical requirements for that degree, as described in the Graduate Catalog. In addition, students complete 12 credit hours of elective coursework (minimum of 9 credit hours at the 900 level) designed to deepen their knowledge and skills in their specific area(s) of specialization.

**Bachelor’s to PhD Nonclinical Track**
This track requires 36 credit hours in addition to the 42 credit hours for all PhD tracks, for a total of 78 credit hours beyond the bachelor’s degree. Students in this track complete 12 credit hours of foundational courses in communication sciences and disorders (to be determined by their doctoral committee) as well as 24 credit hours of elective coursework (minimum of 9 credit hours at the 900-level) designed to deepen their knowledge and skills in their specific area(s) of specialization.

**SLP Master’s/Doctor of Audiology (AuD) to PhD Track**
This track requires 18 credit hours in addition to the 42 credit hours for all PhD tracks, for a total of 60 credit hours beyond the Master’s in SLP or Doctor of Audiology degrees. Students in this track complete 18 credit hours of elective coursework (minimum of 9 credit hours at the 900 level) designed to deepen their knowledge and skills in their specific area(s) of specialization.

**Note:** For all tracks, a doctoral student becomes a candidate for the degree after passing the qualifying examination, which typically is taken during the semester the plan of study requirements (coursework) are completed (exclusive of dissertation hours). Doctoral candidates enroll in at least 2 dissertation credit hours each semester (including the semester of graduation). The final requirements for the PhD are the completion of original research, the dissertation and an oral defense.

**Applied Learning**
Students in the PhD in communication sciences and disorders program are required to complete an applied learning or research experience to graduate from the program. The requirement can be met by the completion of the required dissertation.